

URGENT ACTION

EXECUTION FEARS GROW FOR IRANIAN KURDS

Two members of Iran's Kurdish minority, Zaniar Moradi and Loghman Moradi, could be executed at any time. Their death sentences have been sent to the Office for the Implementation of Sentences, a body within the Judiciary, which is the final step before being called for execution.

Zaniar (or Zanyar) Moradi and Loghman (or Loqman) Moradi were sentenced to public hanging on 22 December 2010 by Branch 15 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court after a trial reportedly lasting 20 minutes. They were convicted of "enmity against God" (*moharebeh*) and "corruption on earth" for allegedly murdering the son of a senior cleric in Marivan, Kordestan province, north-eastern Iran, on 4 July 2009. They were also convicted of participating in armed activities with Komala, a Kurdish opposition group. Their sentences were upheld by the Supreme Court and have reportedly been sent to the enforcement office of the Judiciary.

Zaniar Moradi and Loghman Moradi were arrested respectively on 1 August 2009 and 17 October 2009 in Marivan. They were held without charge by the Ministry of Intelligence for the first nine months of their detention during which they were moved several times between detention facilities. Around the beginning of December 2010 they were transferred to Raja'i Shahr Prison northwest of Tehran. The two men then wrote a letter stating that during their interrogation by the Ministry of Intelligence they were forced to "confess" to the allegations of murder after being tortured and threatened with rape. Amnesty International has so far been unable to confirm reports that Zaniar Moradi was 17 at the time of his arrest.

Please write immediately in Persian, English or your own language:

- Urging the Iranian authorities not to carry out the executions of Loghman Moradi and Zaniar Moradi;
- Calling on them to commute the death sentences of Loghman Moradi and Zaniar Moradi and anyone else on death row, including other Kurdish political prisoners;
- Calling on them to ensure that Loghman Moradi and Zaniar Moradi are protected from torture or other ill-treatment, and are granted immediate and regular access to their families, their lawyers and adequate medical care.
- Expressing concern that neither Loghman Moradi nor Zaniar Moradi had a fair trial, and urging the Iranian authorities to investigate the allegations that they were tortured and to bring to justice anyone found responsible for abuses and to disregard as evidence in courts "confessions" which may have been coerced.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 5 APRIL 2012 TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street – End of Shahid
Keshvar Doust Street, Tehran, Islamic
Republic of Iran

Email: info_leader@leader.ir

Twitter: "Call on #Iran leader

@khamenei_ir to halt the execution of
Loghman Moradi and Zaniar Moradi"

Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
[care of] Public relations Office
Number 4, 2 Azizi Street
Vali Asr Ave., above Pasteur Street
intersection

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Email: bia.judi@yahoo.com (Subject line:

FAO Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani) or

larijani@dadgostary-tehran.ir

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Secretary General, High Council for

Human Rights

Mohammad Javad Larijani

High Council for Human Rights

[Care of] Office of the Head of the

Judiciary, Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave.

south of Serah-e Jomhouri, Tehran

1316814737, Islamic Republic of Iran

Email: info@humanrights-iran.ir (subject

line: FAO Mohammad Javad Larijani)

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 307/11. Further information:

<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/094/2011/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Loghman Moradi and Zaniar Moradi's letter from prison also stated that during interrogations by the Ministry of Intelligence, Zaniar Moradi was repeatedly asked about his father, Eghbal Moradi, a member of the Komala Party of Kurdistan - a banned Iranian Kurdish opposition group - who lives in northern Iraq. The letter further describes that Zaniar Moradi was tied to a bed, lashed and subsequently threatened with rape prior to his "confession".

Kurds, who are one of Iran's many minorities, live mainly in the west and north-west of the country, in the province of Kordestan and neighbouring provinces bordering Kurdish areas of Turkey and Iraq. They experience discrimination in the enjoyment of their religious, economic and cultural rights (see: Iran: *Human rights abuses against the Kurdish minority*, (Index: MDE 13/088/2008, 30 July 2008 available at: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/088/2008/en>). For many years, Kurdish organizations such as the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) and the Marxist group Komala conducted armed struggle against the Islamic Republic of Iran, although neither currently does so. The Party For Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK), was formed in 2004, and carried out armed attacks against Iranian security forces, but declared a unilateral ceasefire in 2009, although it still engages in armed clashes with security forces in what it terms "self-defence. In 2011, the Iranian and Turkish governments shelled border areas where armed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and PJAK bases were thought to be located (see Amnesty International, *Turkey/Iraq: Investigation needed into killing of civilians in the Kurdistan region of Iraq*, Index: REG 01/003/2011, 26 August 2011

Amnesty International condemns without reservation attacks on civilians, which includes judges, clerics, and locally or nationally-elected officials, as attacking civilians violates fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. These principles prohibit absolutely attacks on civilians as well as indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks. Such attacks cannot be justified under any circumstances.

At least 17 other Kurdish men are believed to be on death row in connection with their alleged membership of and activities for proscribed Kurdish organizations. Some have had initial prison sentences increased to death sentences. At least 10 Kurds have reportedly been executed for political offences in recent years.

Name: Loghman Moradi and Zaniar Moradi

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 307/11 Index: MDE 13/010/2012 Issue Date: 23 February 2012